

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE INTERIM U.N. ROLE IN ADMINISTRATION OF
VAROSHA

1. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS OF WESTERN FIVE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBER DELEGATIONS AND WITH UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS
URQUHART AND SHERRY IN NEW YORK MAY 19, DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR
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NIMETZ AND EUR/SE CYPRUS DESK OFFICER CHAPMAN INFORMALLY
PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM UN ROLE IN ADMINISTRATION
OF VAROSHA AS A POSSIBLE DEVICE FOR STIMULATING RESUMPTION
OF CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. BASIC CONCEPT IS THAT
TURKS WOULD AGREE TO GRADUAL INTRODUCTION OF UN ADMINISTRA-
TION IN THAT PORTION OF VAROSHA TO BE OPENED TO GREEK CYPRIOT
RESETTLEMENT AS SOON AS TALKS RESUME, AND THAT SECRETARY

GENERAL WOULD ACCEPT THIS AS SUFFICIENTLY CONCRETE INDICATION OF TURKISH FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD INTENTIONS TO RECONVENE NEGOTIATIONS. GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD THEN FIND IT DIFFICULT NOT TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, SINCE INTERNATIONAL OPINION WOULD OTHERWISE PORTRAY THEM AS INTRANSIGENT PARTY AND SINCE DOMESTIC PRESSURE WOULD ARISE FROM REFUGEE GROUPS WHO WOULD SEE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMPT RETURN TO THEIR HOMES UNDER ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS.

2. IN DELINEATING PROPOSAL, NIMETZ UNDERScored OUR CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT EACH SIDE HAD NOW PAINTED ITSELF INTO A

CORNER AND THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL MECHANISM MIGHT SOON BREAK DOWN, PERHAPS IRRETRIEVABLY. THE CYPRUS ISSUE COULD THEN BE DEADLOCKED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND INCREASINGLY TWO SEPARATE CYPRIOT STATES WOULD EMERGE. THIS VERY REAL CONCERN PROMPTED US TO DO WHATEVER WE COULD TO EXTRACT SOMETHING MORE FROM THE TURKS IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE INDICATIONS OF TURKISH FLEXIBILITY THAT WOULD JUSTIFY WALDHEIM'S RECONVENING THE TALKS AND WOULD INDUCE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO ACCEPT HIS CALL. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT THE TURKISH POSITION ON VAROSHA WAS IN FACT CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED TO WALDHEIM ON APRIL 13: ECEVIT HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES IN BONN THAT THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF VAROSHA WAS OPEN TO NEGOTIATION; THE TURKS HAD AUTHORITATIVELY STATED THAT AS MANY AS 35,000 GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD

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BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE CITY; AND THEY HAD INDICATED THAT THIS RETURN COULD COMMENCE AS SOON AS NEGOTIATIONS WERE RESUMED. IF WE COULD PERSUADE THE TURKS TO DROP THEIR INSISTENCE ON TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION DURING THIS INTERIM PERIOD AND TO ACCEPT A UN ROLE IN ITS STEAD, THEN THEIR OVERALL POSITION ON VAROSHA WOULD SEEM TO US SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE TO PERMIT WALDHEIM TO RECONVENE NEGOTIATIONS. NIMETZ SAID THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION IN VAROSHA AT PRESENT WOULD SEEM TO ARGUE IN FAVOR OF THE TURKS ACCEPTING THIS PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING IN THE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE SECURITY OF FAMAGUSTA HARBOR, WHICH WAS EVIDENTLY A MAJOR TURKISH PREOCCUPATION.

3. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN FIVE SHARED OUR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF THE CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL MECHANISM AND INDICATED GENERALLY THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER ANYTHING WOULD INDUCE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RETURN TO THE TABLE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED, INTER ALIA AS TO THE PRACTICALITY OF A UN ADMINISTRATION IN THE AREA AND AS TO

THE NECESSITY FOR A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE. NIMETZ SAID THAT WE WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO THE WESTERN FIVE MEMBERS LATER TO ASK THAT THEY MAKE SUPPORTING DEMARCHES WITH WALDHEIM, THE TURKS, AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.

4. URQUHART REACTED POSITIVELY TO SUGGESTION FOR AN INTERIM UN ROLE IN VAROSHA. HE FELT SURE THAT WALDHEIM WOULD CALL FOR A NEW ROUND OF TALKS IF THERE WERE SOME CONCRETE FORTHCOMING GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE TURKS, AND HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT TURKISH ACCEPTANCE OF VAROSHA PROPOSAL WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS SUCH A GESTURE. URQUHART AND NIMETZ AGREED THAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE FURTHER US/UN

DISCUSSION AFTER WHICH APPROACH COULD BE MADE TO THE TURKS.
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SHERRY NOTED THAT UNFICYP PRESENTLY ADMINISTERS SEVERAL VILLAGES LOCATED IN THE BUFFER ZONE, ATHIENOU BEING THE PRINCIPAL ONE, AND THAT THERE WAS HENCE A GOOD PRECEDENT FOR AN INTERIM UN ROLE IN VAROSHA. URQUHART NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF TURKISH ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL, IF FORTHCOMING, WERE TO BE IN WRITING.

5. FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL "NON-PAPER" ON UN ROLE IN VAROSHA WAS LEFT WITH URQUHART AND WITH MEMBERS OF WESTERN FIVE:

6. BEGIN TEXT: INTERIM UN ADMINISTRATION OF VAROSHA -- A PROPOSAL -- THE TURKISH SIDE HAS RECENTLY SIGNALLED A GREATER FLEXIBILITY CONCERNING VAROSHA THAN HAD BEEN APPARENT IN EXTRACTS OF THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON APRIL 13. THEY NOW INDICATE THAT UP TO 35,000 GREEK CYPRIOTS COULD AT AN EARLY DATE RETURN TO VAROSHA (OR AT LEAST THE GREATER PART OF THE CITY) AND THAT THE ULTIMATE POLITICAL STATUS OF VAROSHA IS NEGOTIABLE. THE PROPOSAL, AS ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED, HAD INDICATED THAT THE RETURNEES WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE "TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS." THIS CONDITION HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE AND HAS BECOME A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO THE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

7. ONE POSSIBLE WAY OF BUILDING ON TURKISH FLEXIBILITY, AND ACHIEVING THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS, WOULD BE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO UNDERTAKE TO ARRANGE AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION FOR VAROSHA.

-- ANY SUCH ADMINISTRATION WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE REGARDING VAROSHA IN A FINAL SETTLEMENT, AND WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SE-
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CURITY CONCERNS OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

-- THIS PLAN COULD PROCEED BY STAGES BEGINNING WITH UN
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SURVEYING AND REHABILITATING THE
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES, AND LEADING EVEN-
TUALLY TO AN ACTIVE UN ROLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
AREA.

-- THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD COMMENCE RETURNING TO VAROSHA
AS SOON AS THE UN DETERMINED IT WAS PRACTICAL FOR THEM TO
RETURN AND WHEN INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS HAD RESUMED.
END TEXT. VANCE

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